

Town of Fairfield, CT diversifies its fuel supply with \$296,530 grant for natural gas vehicles and refueling infrastructure.

First Selectman Ken Flatto and Project Partners Celebrate Expansion of Town Natural Gas Vehicle Fleet and Fueling Station at Town Public Works facility.

Monday, October 31, 2005, Fairfield, CT—The Town of Fairfield, The Southern Connecticut Gas Company and the Clean Cities Coalition of Southwest Connecticut celebrated the expansion of the Town's natural gas vehicle fueling station today at the Town Public Works facility. The expanded station will allow the Town to fuel its 28 natural gas vehicles more efficiently and will allow it to expand the natural gas vehicle fleet over the coming years. The Town received a \$130,250 grant from the US Department of Energy to implement the refueling station and to purchase a natural gas senior shuttle bus. The Southern Connecticut Gas Company provided over \$118,300 in equipment and technical services towards the project. The entire project is valued at \$296,530.

“Not only is our fleet cleaner because of our natural gas vehicle program, but we have been able to reduce fuel costs by securing a competitively priced natural gas contract”, said First Selectman Ken Flatto. “Over the next year we plan to expand our fleet beyond the 28 natural gas vehicles to include school buses and other heavy duty vehicles. By switching our fleet from diesel to natural gas, we will help reduce the risks associated with the exposure to diesel exhaust within sensitive populations in our community, including both children and seniors.”

The Town of Fairfield has been a leader in the strategic use of federal and state funding mechanisms to reduce the costs of fleet and facility projects to the town. “It has been our privilege to partner with the Town of Fairfield on projects such as the installation of a fuel cell, microturbines, and its ‘green’ municipal fleet”, said Michael Smalec, Manager of Key Accounts, Southern Connecticut Gas Company.

The State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management worked with the Town of Fairfield and the Southwest Clean Cities Coalition to apply for and secure the federal grant. The US Department of Energy (US DOE) spends over \$6 million annually on alternative fuel vehicles and related infrastructure grants throughout the US. “The Town of Fairfield and the Clean Cities of Southwest Connecticut were awarded the largest grant the State has ever received from the US DOE for this type of project. The implementation of this project will help displace approximately 300 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel every day with cleaner, domestically produced natural gas”, said State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management Planning Specialist John Ruckes.

The station equipment was installed by Air and Gas Technologies (AGT). AGT has installed and currently services approximately 100 compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicle refueling stations in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. “Air & Gas Technologies was pleased to offer our expertise to assist the Town of Fairfield expand the use of this

domestic, low emission alternative to gasoline and diesel as a vehicle fuel”, said Graham Barker, project manager for Connecticut. “We congratulate the Town of Fairfield on their foresight, community spirit and leadership with this expansion in their use of CNG vehicles to help reduce pollution and dependency on foreign oil.”

There are almost 130,000 natural gas vehicles (NGVs) operating in the United States and more than two million operating around the world. The U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts that this number will grow by at least 10 percent a year through 2020. Over 40 different manufacturers produce light, medium and heavy-duty vehicles and engines for every application in the U.S.

For more information, contact Juliet Burdelski, phone 860 663 3925, jburdie@aol.com, or Ed Boman, Town of Fairfield, phone 203 256 3003.



Town of Fairfield, CT First Selectman Ken Flatto and Clean Cities stakeholders.